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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED APRIL 17TH, 1869.]

SESSION 1868-69.

Fourth Meeting, 11th January, 1869.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*J. A. Brand, Esq.*; *W. T. Paliologus, Esq.*; *J. Seaton, Esq.*, M.D.; *F. C. Cory, Esq.*, M.D.

ELECTIONS.—*T. R. Auld, Esq.*; *George Bidie, Esq.*, M.D.; *J. H. Bowker, Esq.*; *Dr. Barry*, M.A.; *Alfred Drummond, Esq.*; *Francis Drake, Esq.*; *G. Goldney, Esq.*, M.P.; *W. H. Hodgson, Esq.*; *George Holt, Esq.*; *Samuel Heywood, Esq.*; *Hon. E. W. Lamb*; *G. E. Massie, Esq.*; *Robert Nicol, Esq.*; *F. G. H. Price, Esq.*; *F. A. Page, Esq.*; *Hormuzd Rassam, Esq.*; *Dr. J. L. Stewart*; *John Sarll, Esq.*; *E. C. Stebbing, Esq.*; *Robert O. White, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY BETWEEN THE 14TH DECEMBER, 1868, AND 11TH JANUARY, 1869.—‘*Della Laguna di Venezia.*’ By B. C. Vacani. Florence, 1867. Donor, the author. ‘*Florula Discoana.*’ By R. Brown. Donor, the author. ‘*W. C. Plowden’s Travels in Abyssinia.*’ By T. C. Plowden. Donor, the editor. ‘*Les Cataracts du Nil.*’ By E. Gottberg. Paris, 1867. Purchased. ‘*Das Sudliche ufer des Kaspischen Meres.*’ By G. Von Melguno. Leipzig, 1868. Purchased. ‘*La Géographie du Talmud.*’ 1868. By A. Naubauer. Purchased. ‘*Géographie de la Palestine après les Thalmuds.*’ 1857. By J. Derenbourg. Purchased. ‘*Egypt et Nubie, 1867.*’ By J. J. Ampere. Purchased. ‘*L’Arabie Contemporaine.*’ By A. D’Avril. Paris, 1868. ‘*Ceylon, 1868.*’ By Von Ransonnet. With Transactions and Reports of Societies.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF DECEMBER, 14TH, 1868.—Ordnance Map, on various scales, 958 sheets. Area Books, 84 inch.

After the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting, the President spoke as follows:—

“ Before the ordinary business of the meeting commences, I feel it to be my duty to express to you the grief which I have experienced, in common, I am sure, with yourselves, on the occasion of the sudden death of our esteemed and distinguished associate, Lord Strangford. The great services which his Lordship has rendered to the Society are well known to you; and the deep regret which I am sure you will feel at his loss must be aggravated when I tell you that at our very next meeting Lord Strangford would have communicated to you, *viva voce*, the result of all his researches into the geography of Central Asia—a task which he was so eminently qualified to execute with success, from his wonderful lore in all writings on the subject and his intimate acquaintance with Eastern languages.

“ In anticipation of the reading of this excellent paper, when he who was to have eloquently expounded it is in the grave, I call on you to unite with me in a vote of our heartfelt condolence towards the afflicted widow, who, as the daughter of that eminent geographer, Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, in her father's lifetime gave full proof of her attachment to our science, and who frequently honoured us by frequenting our assemblies.”

(This expression of sorrow and condolence was cordially and unanimously approved, and the President was requested to convey the sentiments of the Society to Viscountess Strangford.)

The PRESIDENT then announced that the Council had selected as examiners for the medals offered for competition by the Society to the public schools, the Rev. William George Clark, Vice-Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace, the eminent naturalist and traveller. The head masters of the public schools had responded in cordial terms to the invitation of the Society; and he had every reason to expect that this system of awarding medals to the most proficient scholars would prove an important and enduring stimulus to the study of geography. The examination would take place on the first Monday in May. The President added that he could not make this announcement without stating that the scheme originated exclusively with Mr. Francis Galton, a member of the Council; and the Council had adopted it in the belief that it would be appreciated as one of the best means for the promotion of geographical knowledge throughout the country. The warmest thanks of the Society were due to Mr. Galton for the part he had taken in the matter.

The PRESIDENT then introduced Mr. Douglas Freshfield, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Tucker, three English gentlemen, who have recently made a remarkable exploration of the Caucasus, and who had ascended two of the loftiest mountains of the range—Mount Elbruz, which is 2800 feet higher than Mont Blanc, and Mount Kasbek, which is 16,546 feet above the sea-level. The President said he must call them the two highest mountains in Europe, because they were situated on the northern side of the Caucasian chain, which had been considered by modern geographers the boundary between Europe and Asia. Mr. Freshfield would read his remarkable account of the journey, and of the difficulties he and his companions encountered, and how they obviated them.

The following paper was then read by the author:—

Journey in the Caucasus and Ascent of Kasbek and Elbruz.

By DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD.

THE author stated that the journey to the Caucasus was made by himself with two friends, Mr. Tucker and Mr. Moore, accompanied by